

I want you to know that all who are planning this event are intentionally including practices that will help create a brave space for us to show up with honesty, respect, vulnerability and curiosity. We are mindful of the need for ample space to dialogue and deliberate the items that are before this year. We are going to be grounding our gathering with prayer stations and invitational and authentic worship. Rev. Laura Everett, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches will be preaching on Thursday night. We are delighted to share that Derek Ritenour, a pastor and school administrator from Virginia, will be serving as a parliamentarian through the meeting.

We aren't promising that our coming together will be easy or comfortable or perfectly planned, but we do believe it is possible to come together as the Body of Christ and begin to wrestle with the issues that are critical to our ability to continue to support, nurture and inspire faith and justice communities across the west.

As part of this newsletter you will find our 30 day notice of all business items, resolutions, and basic agenda for our time together. I hope you will review all that is enclosed and to participate in person or on-line. A reminder that the early bird deadline for registration and hotel reservations at the Double Tree Hotel is May 24.

In gratitude,

Rev. Erin Gilmore

49th Annual Celebration

Registration is now open and can be found [HERE](#). Deadline to register is 6/12/2023. Hotel reservations can be made directly by use the [Online Group Booking Codes](#) if you plan to book your room online click here otherwise booking over the phone 970-241-8888, be sure to ask for the Rocky Mountain Conference UCC rate when making your reservation. **Make your reservation by May 24, to receive our special rate of \$129.95.** Business meeting information as well as other details about the gathering will be posted [HERE](#) scan this QR code, so please check back often.



30 Day Notice

The following documents have been posted on the [2023 Annual Celebration web page](#) of the RMC website.

- *2023 Annual Celebration Agenda (posted 5/12/23)*
- *Standing Rules (posted 4/13/23)*
- *Resolution Form (posted 3/28/23)*
- *Eco-Justice Resolution (posted 5/12/23)*
- *Resolution on Termination of Rev. Dr. Anthony Scott (posted 5/12/23)*

- *2022 AC Minutes for Approval (posted 5/12/23)*
 - *2023 Consent Agenda (posted 5/12/23)*
 - *2023 Nominating Report (to be posted when Nominating Committee completes their work)*
 - *Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual (posted 5/12/23)*
 - *Balance Sheet (posted 5/12/23)*
 - *2023-2024 Proposed Budget (posted 5/12/23)*
 - *Proposed RMC Constitution and Bylaws (posted 5/12/23)*
 - *Proposed Bylaws Changes Explanation (posted 5/12/23)*
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From the Board of Directors

Proposed Bylaws Changes

The Bylaws Committee created by the Board has worked very hard in the past few weeks on improving the clarity of the Conference Bylaws and adding structure guiding employment and personnel matters. This effort applies lessons learned to the conflict in the conference over differing interpretations of our sometimes vague and occasionally contradictory Bylaws. The proposed changes also reflect the desire expressed during listening sessions Bridge Conference Minister Diane Weible has been leading around the conference to create a more broad review of personnel decisions. These proposed changes will be presented at the annual celebration to the conference delegates for approval.

Many thanks to Rev. Phil Campbell, Rev. Elizabeth Endicott, Rev. Ben Konecny, Angie Law, and Adam McCoy for their combined efforts.

David Bristow
Bylaws Committee Chair

Coming for summer 2024 – Lapp Lodge!



Here at La Foret we are getting more and more excited that **Lapp Lodge** is getting closer to becoming a reality. Planned and to be built in honor of Rev. Robinson “Robb” Lapp and his wife Janet, who together led a life of great ministry along with a lifelong commitment and support of La Foret. Robb served first as a counselor at La Foret in the early 1960’s and later even at times as a fill in Executive Director. During his career Robb served on our Board of Directors and countless committees over the years to ensure La Foret’s success.

Lapp Lodge will have 15 guestrooms, a common lobby and adjoining meeting room. A fireplace in the lobby that will have an inside and outside hearth. Each guest room will have its own private bathroom. Each room will be outfitted with a queen bed, with overhead twin bed, a single twin bed and a set of murphy bunk beds. With a head on every pillow, each room could sleep up to six people, but also be very comfortable for fewer or a single person.

The lodge will be located on the edge of the meadow, across from Inglis hall. Parking and access will be on the backside to not infringe on the meadow. The entrance drive will be down the hill, midway between Prickly Pear cabin and the chapel. There will be a handicapped accessible walkway leading to the dining room. The lodge itself will be all one level, to ensure those with mobility challenges are not hindered by stairs or other obstacles.

Thanks to a generous bequest from the Susan B Duncan estate, plus the offer of a loan from the Cornerstone fund and an ongoing capital campaign, we have acquired the funds. The loan section will leave us with some debt, but the more success the capital campaign has, the less the debt will be. We are hopeful that many supporters of La Foret, both long time donors, newer and first-time donors will step up and contribute towards the lodge. We appreciate those who may wish to leave a bequest from a trust or from their will. The lodge will be a tremendous tribute to the Lapps and position La Foret for a future in new program offerings and future groups that can be attracted with a modern facility.

All gifts can be made at our website, www.laforet.org. We encourage monthly re-occurring gifts if you are able. A smaller amount given monthly can amount to a much more generous gift than what we may be able to do at one time. We deeply appreciate your consideration of support for Lapp Lodge. Together we can make this a reality for La Foret and all to enjoy.

We are in the process of searching for a person to lead the campaign, but for now, questions about the lodge, the campaign or making a gift can be directed to La Foret Executive Director, Brad Carroll. Brad@laforet.org or 719-495-2743.

Our heartfelt thanks in advance to you for your support of Lapp Lodge, and La Foret.



Recent openings across the conference

For all openings in the RMC please visit UCC Ministry Opportunities website.

United Church of Broomfield

United Church of Broomfield is searching for:

- Music Director, more information about this ministry opportunity can found [HERE](#).
- Associate Pastor, more information about this ministry opportunity can found [HERE](#)

Parker Hilltop United Church of Christ

Parker Hilltop is seeking a Settled Pastor. more information about this ministry opportunity can found [HERE](#).

Montview Presbyterian

Montview Presbyterian: is searching for:

- Associate Pastor for Congregational Care Position
They have just opened a new call for an Associate Pastor for Congregational Care and Older Adult Ministries. The search committee is open to candidates beyond PCUSA, namely, candidates from the Formula of Agreement (PCUA, UCC, ELCA, and RCA). More information about this ministry opportunity can found [HERE](#).
- Bridge Pastor for Congregational Care
The second is related to Ian Cummins, one of their co-pastors. Ian announced his retirement for May 7 several months ago. And then a few weeks ago he learned that his

son has a brain tumor, and he has decided to postpone his retirement and stay here at Montview at least for the next several months as he cares for his family. In light of that, they are looking for a part-time bridge pastor, specifically focused on pastoral care, until they call the AP for Congregational Care (described above) later this Fall/Winter. They anticipate this being a 10 to 15 (maybe 20?) hour a week position who could come along side our Care Team for visitation, hospital visits, individual spiritual care, memorials and funerals, and other care ministry leadership to help ease the load for both Ian and Clover during this time when Ian is tending to his son's medical condition.

They are envisioning a retired pastor, or a colleague who is in a part-time call at another church, who might be looking to supplement their current ministry over the next 6 to 9 months.

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Daring Greatly

Diane is conducting a book study on one of Brene's books, Daring Greatly for anyone in the Conference who would like to join us in this important work. The book study will meet via [Zoom](#) every Tuesday, May 16 and 23 from 12-1 p.m. Feel free to bring your lunch with you and join us for a one-hour conversation. We will cover two chapters each week. There is no need to sign up ahead of time. If you would like to be part of this!

Rev. Dr. Diane Weible

Upcoming Events and Important Links

May 2, 9, 16 and 23 : Daring Greatly Book study Zoom link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3296187641?pwd=MU4yRGpMb3pEQ0MwbFFrUVFzalppZz09>

June 15-17: Annual Celebration [Learn more](#). [Register](#).

Previous versions of the Together Newsletter can be found [here](#).